

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application, Claims 1-11 having been amended by the present amendment. Claims 1-11 are amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicant regards as the invention without adding new matter. In addition, the Abstract is amended to correct a misspelling and to remove the reference to Fig. 4.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 7-11 were objected to under 37 CFR §1.75(c) as improper for depending from another multiple dependent claim; and Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over Pfaff (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,101).

With respect to the objection to Claims 7-11, Claims 7-11 are amended to remove improper multiple dependencies. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Claims 7-11 be examined on the merits. In addition, Claim 6 is also amended to remove an improper multiple dependency.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 1 as anticipated by Pfaff, Applicant respectfully submits that Pfaff does not teach or suggest every element of amended Claim 1.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a computer system including at least two processes P1, P2,...Pi,...Pn connected by a network, wherein each process is executed by a piece of hardware equipped with an operating system. A process includes: a library software layer used by the operating system to access a program for activation of a communications protocol associated with an input/output of the hardware; an intermediate software layer including an inter-process communications process associated with a communications channel; and a multiplexer encapsulated in the library and configured to multiplex the communications

channel of a process P_i with the communications channels of the other processes $P_1, P_2, \dots P_N$, the exchanges being made in a form of data flows, the communications channel between two processes P_i, P_k being activated by the multiplexers of the two processes, upon a request by one of them. This configuration enables a process to communicate with several processes simultaneously.¹

Amended Claim 1 recites “an intermediate software layer comprising an inter-process communications process associated with a communications channel.” Pfaff does not teach or suggest this element of amended Claim 1.

The Office Action states that a multiplexer component ASC equates with the above-noted element.² Pfaff does not disclose that the multiplexer component ASC is a software layer. Furthermore, as will be discussed below, amended Claim 1 separately claims an intermediate software layer and a multiplexer. Thus, Pfaff does not teach or suggest the claimed “an intermediate software layer comprising an inter-process communications process associated with a communications channel.”

Amended Claim 1 also recites “a multiplexer encapsulated in the library.” Fig. 2 of Pfaff clearly shows that the multiplexer component of Pfaff is not “encapsulated in the library.” Thus, Pfaff does not teach or suggest the claimed “a multiplexer encapsulated in the library.”

Amended Claim 1 also recites “the communications channel between two processes P_i, P_k being activated by the multiplexers of the two processes, upon a request by one of them.” Indeed, Pfaff does not teach or suggest this element of amended Claim 1.

On the contrary, Pfaff describes a system of multiple servers that communicate with a single client.³ Pfaff describes that a conference inquiry A_i is sent to the multiplexer

¹ Specification, page 1, lines 29-31.

² Office Action, page 3.

³ Pfaff, Fig. 2.

component ASC from a server XSi.⁴ In the multiplexer component ASC, the conference inquiry is converted into inquiry A and that is sent to the client XC.⁵ Thus, Pfaff describes having the server activate the communications channel and not the multiplexer.

In addition, as the claim language makes clear, the communications channel between the two processes Pi, Pk is activated by "the multiplexers of the two processes." Thus, each process has its own multiplexer. The system described in Pfaff and depicted in Fig. 2 only includes one multiplexer for the system.

Thus, Pfaff does not teach or suggest the claimed "the communications channel between two processes Pi, Pk being activated by the multiplexers of the two processes, upon a request by one of them."

In view of the above-noted distinctions, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 (and Claims 2-11) patentably distinguish over Pfaff.

Finally, it is respectfully requested that the reference on line AO of the PTO Form 1449 filed on Aug. 31, 2001 be considered on the record, and that the Examiner send the undersigned an initialed PTO-1449 form to that effect.

⁴ Pfaff, col. 6, lines 11-12.

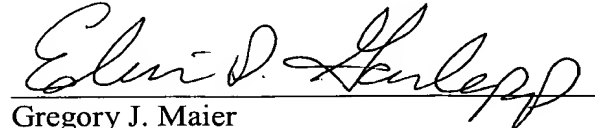
⁵ Pfaff, col. 6, lines 13-15.

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Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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